GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4130
ANSWERED ON:20.08.2001
SETTING UP OF SUB-GROUPS
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the working group on telecom sector for the Tenth Five Year Plan has proposed to set up four sub-groups for chalking out an approach for the telecommunications sector and promotion of private sector investment;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the functions of these sub-groups;

(c) the time by which these groups are likely to submit their reports; and

(d) the extent to which these working groups are likely to be helpful in implementing the telecom policy?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The functions of these sub-groups are as under:

To evolve Approach on Telecom Sector for the 10th Plan keeping in view the basic goal of development of world class telecom infrastructure for supporting accelerated growth of IT and other sectors of the economy, fulfilling the objectives of the New Telecom Policy (1999), convergence of services and markets, international scenario in the wake of WTO/IPR regimes and other relevant factors.

To make recommendations on the further restructuring/reforms required in the telecom sector in the post convergence scenario.

To make recommendations on development of an appropriate system of telecom network in rural areas which should be affordable but self-financing and capable of supporting a multi-media system of communications.

To suggest measures to be adopted for promoting private sector investment in the light of the experience gained so far and the requirement of funds for future growth.

To review the performance of telecom equipment manufacturing sector so far, identify the constraints and make recommendations for evolving an appropriate policy to ensure growth on the pattern of software sector.

To suggest measures to be adopted for Research and Development approach.

(c) These subgroups were required to submit their reports by 31.7.2001.

(d) The recommendations of these sub groups will be helpful in implementing the various telecom policies such as:

i) Development of rural telephony.
ii) To achieve the objective of telephone density as envisaged in New Telecom Policy 1999.
iii) All modern telecom services to be made available as public facility.